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that serve America's agricultural workers to continue to strengthen their commitment to promoting farm safety and health programs. I also urge all Americans to honor our agricultural heritage and to recognize our farmers and ranchers for their remarkable contributions to our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., September 22, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 19, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 23.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Nasir al-Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah of Kuwait

September 19, 2008

President Bush. Your Excellency, thanks for coming. Kuwait is a strategic partner of the United States, and our discussion today was befiting of our strategic partnership.

We talked about a lot of issues. One issue we talked about was Iraq. And I do want to thank Your Excellency for naming an ambassador to Iraq. It's a recognition on your part that a stable and peaceful Iraq is in your interests. And we support those interests.

I also want to thank you for being such a good security partner in the region. I can remember fondly coming to Kuwait and going to our base there, and how appreciative our commanders and our folks based there were for the hospitality of your country.

We talked about the economic situation here in the United States, and I told His Highness—His Excellency I'm going to go give a speech here in a minute.

And all in all, it was a very good discussion. And I thank you for your friendship, and I welcome you to the United States.

Prime Minister Nasir. Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf of my delegation, I want to thank you for the hospitality, the warm welcome. The discussions that we have had here, Mr. President, concern all the international arena. Our people cannot forget the position that United States took—the leadership and the coalition forces to liberate Kuwait in '91.

And since United States has become one of our allies in the region, the discussion that we have had is the mutual interests between both countries in all these fields. And we are happy; we are glad to see that everything is moving very, very well between the two countries.

Thank you again, and I bring the best wishes of the Amir, the Crown Prince, and the people of Kuwait. Thank you, sir, and the people of United States.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:11 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, Prime Minister Nasir referred to Amir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and Crown Prince Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah of Kuwait.

Remarks on the National Economy

September 19, 2008

Good morning. I thank the Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, and SEC Chairman Chris Cox for joining me today.

This is a pivotal moment for America's economy. Problems that originated in the credit markets—and first showed up in the area of subprime mortgages—have spread throughout our financial system. This has led to an erosion of confidence that has frozen many financial transactions, including loans to consumers and to businesses seeking to expand and create jobs. As a result, we must act now to protect our Nation's economic health from serious risk.

There will be ample opportunity to debate the origins of this problem. Now is the time to solve it. In our Nation's history, there have been moments that require us to come together across party lines to address major challenges. This is such a moment. Last night, Secretary Paulson and Chairman Bernanke and Chairman Cox met with congressional leaders of both parties, and they